



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

James A. Garfield National
Historic Site

8095 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060

www.nps.gov/jaga

James A. Garfield National Historic Site News Release

For Immediate Release – Thursday, December 18, 2008
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Holiday Hours at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Mentor, Ohio - The James A. Garfield National Historic Site (JAGNHS) in Mentor announces holiday hours for the Visitor Center and Garfield Home tours.

The Site will be open December 26, 29, 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, December 27 and 28, from noon-5. Regular winter hours are weekends noon – 5 p.m. Tours of the Garfield Home will run approximately every 45 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead for specific tour time. Groups with six or more people are requested to make separate reservations to ensure the group can be accommodated.

The home of our country's twentieth president has been decorated to reflect various time periods during which the Garfield Family occupied the house. Although James A. Garfield died in 1881, his family continued to live in the home until the 1930's. Information about how the Garfields celebrated Christmas is scarce; however, we know that as a child, James A. Garfield went to school in the morning and spent the rest of the day chopping wood. As an adult, Garfield often found himself working. James Garfield spent one Christmas in his newly renovated Mentor home (now JAGNHS), and received homemade gifts from his children such as pen wipers (for wiping the tips of ink pens used during that time). Garfield and his wife Lucretia usually chose books as gifts. Unfortunately, Garfield was not alive to celebrate Christmas as president in the White House. He was shot July 2, 1881 and died September 19 of that same year.

In the decades following Garfield's death, the family would have available glass ornaments, cornucopias filled with candy, and cut tin ornaments to hang on their tree. Popular colors were burgundies, pinks, blues and greens. The 10 foot tree in the Presidential Memorial Library represents some of these ideas. A photo is available online at www.nps.gov/jaga/news.htm.

About the James A. Garfield National Historic Site and the National Park Service

James A. Garfield National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The 8-acre site consists of the main house and memorial library of James A. Garfield, the twentieth president of the United States, the 1880 presidential campaign office, the 1893 carriage house, the windmill and several outbuildings associated with the Garfield farm. Most of the furnishings and personal effects in the main house are original Garfield family pieces, on loan to the NPS by the Western Reserve Historical Society. In the late 1990s the house was completely restored by the National Park Service, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. House tours run regularly, please call ahead for a schedule. Tours and the Visitor Center are largely wheelchair accessible. Special community events and special education programs for the public are scheduled throughout the year. The Garfield site is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon - 5 p.m., May through October. November through April the site is open weekends only, noon – 5 p.m. For information call (440) 255-8722, write 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060, or visit www.nps.gov/jaga.

The National Park Service, an Interior Department agency, is composed of more than 20,000 rangers, archaeologists, historians, biologists, architects, laborers, gardeners and other professionals who care for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

There are 385 national parks covering more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov.

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